THE GRIM AVENGER OF THE NIGHT!
35¢
NO. 288
JUNE
30430
BAT MAN
WAKK! WAKK! I ALWAYS SAID YOU WERE FOR THE BIRDS, BATMAN!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
PERIL FROM THE PENGUIN'S PETS OF PREY!

GREEN LANTERN
HAL JORDAN ALIAS GREEN LANTERN
"HALF THE PEOPLE HERE..."
EVERYONE'S HALF GONE! SOMEBODY'S GOTTA BE HALF JOKING!
THE HALFBACK HAS ONLY HALF A BACK!
"SPINDLY" KLUTZ SPEAKING. THE GAME HAS JUST STARTED BUT IT'S HALF OVER ALREADY!
AS A KID, THEY'D LET ME PLAY FOOTBALL ONLY HALF THE TIME-- I WAS SO ROTTEN!
IT DROVE ME HALF MAD!
NOW MY REVENGE-- MY POWER TO MAKE YOU ALL HALF DISAPPEAR, YOU HALF-BAKED FINKS.
HALF OF HAL JORDAN STEPS INTO A PLACE OF SECLUSION AND...
NOT HALF A SECOND TO WASTE.
I'LL USE MY RING TO HALF CHANGE INTO GREEN LANTERN!
I'VE AN IDEA THAT'S NOT HALF BAD.
I'LL NEED YOUR HELP, MIKE.
HAVE HALF A DELICIOUS HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES.
HALF-WAY MEASURES AGAIN! I WANT IT ALL!!!! THE WHOLE GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE WITH CREAMED FILLING OR NOTHING!!
ONLY IF YOU MAKE HALF OF THE PEOPLE REAPPEAR YOU SPINDLY KLUTZ, AND MAYBE I'LL RELEASE MY HALF NELSON ON YOU.
THEN MAYBE YOU'LL ONLY HAVE TO SERVE HALF YOUR SENTENCE.
GLAD TO HAVE THE OTHER HALF OF MY BACK, BACK AGAIN!
I WAS ONLY HALF-JOKING.
YAAAY TWINKIES CAKES! THEY'RE ALL THERE!
Twinkies.
CREAMED FILLING
CAKE
HOSTESS
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CREAMED FILLING
56
YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES

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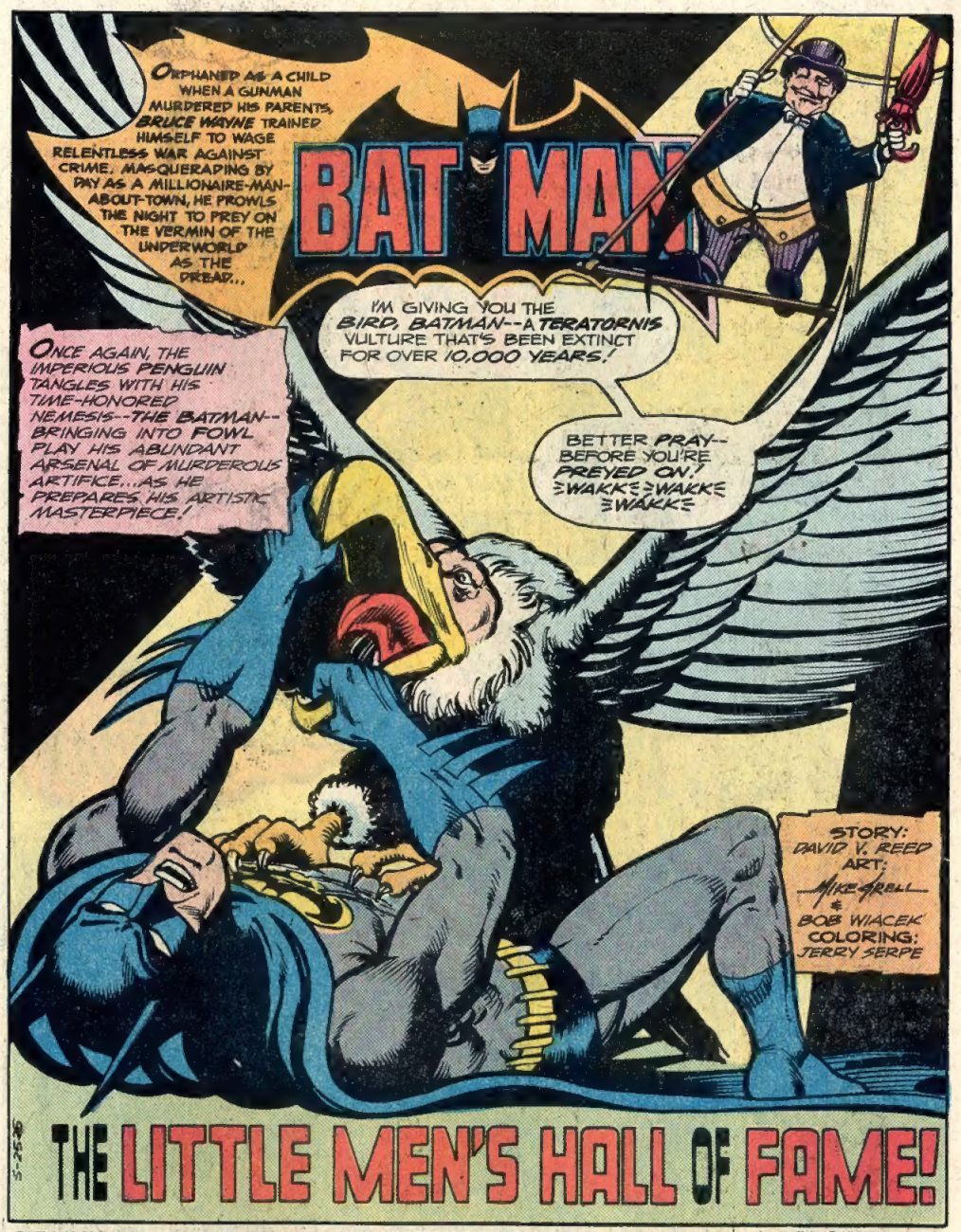
ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN A GUNMAN MURDERED HIS PARENTS, BRUCE WAYNE TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME. MASQUERADING BY DAY AS A MILLIONAIRE-MAN-ABOUT-TOWN, HE PROWLS THE NIGHT TO PREY ON THE VERMIN OF THE UNDERWORLD AS THE PREAD...
BAT MAN
I'M GIVING YOU THE BIRD, BATMAN--A TERATORNIS VULTURE THAT'S BEEN EXTINCT FOR OVER 10,000 YEARS!
ONCE AGAIN, THE IMPERIOUS PENGUIN TANGLES WITH HIS TIME-HONORED NEMESIS--THE BATMAN--BRINGING INTO FOWL PLAY HIS ABUNDANT ARSENAL OF MURDEROUS ARTIFICE...AS HE PREPARES HIS ARTISTIC MASTERPIECE!
BETTER PRAY--BEFORE YOU'RE PREYED ON! WAKK WAKK WAKK
STORY: DAVID V. REED
ART: MIKE GRELL & BOB WIACEK
COLORING: JERRY SERPE

THE LITTLE MEN'S HALL OF FAME!

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THE ANATOMY OF A CRIME
A DOOR--GUARDED BOTH OUTSIDE AND HERE IN THE BUILDING LOBBY--OPENS WITHOUT A SOUND..
A GUNMAN STEALTHILY STEPS THROUGH...
A SINGLE SWIFT MOVE...THE LOBBY GUARD FALLS--
UNNGH!
THE GUNMAN RETURNS TO THE DOOR...WHISPERS HOARSELY--
ALL CLEAR--NO ALARM!
TEN SECONDS LATER, HIS CONFEDERATES ENTER...HERDING THE TWO OUTSIDE GUARDS--
--WHO ARE DUMPED ALONGSIDE THE UNCONSCIOUS GUARD ON THE FLOOR...
THE FIRST GUNMAN OPENS AN INNER DOOR...
...WHERE, AWAITING HIM--
--THE BATMAN!
2

BUT--NEXT INSTANT---
AAARGH--UNGHH--
YOU'VE HAD IT, BATMAN! YOU'RE FINISHED--
SUDDENLY--THE SHRILL SCREAM OF A WHISTLE--AND...
CUT!--THAT'S AS FAR AS OUR DRESS REHEARSAL GOES!
AND, MICKEY, LET'S NOT OVERDO THE HISTRIONICS! THERE'LL BE NO AUDIENCE TO APPRECIATE THEM!
NOW, REMEMBER, SINCE WE WON'T BE DEALING WITH A STAGED MOCKUP TONIGHT, WE CAN'T FORESEE HOW OR WHERE THE BATMAN WILL COME AT US!
ONE THING ALONE IS CERTAIN--HE'LL BE THERE TO WELCOME US--AND VICE VERSA!
AND ONCE THE BATMAN CONKS OUT--WE GO AHEAD WITH THE CAPER AND I BLOW THE SAFE, RIGHT?
ABSOLUTELY! THAT BOODLE IS VITAL TO MY SPLENDACIOUS PROJECT!
THEN, MICKEY, MY LAD--LAST RITES FOR THE BATMAN--AND ON TO OUR CONCLUDING CAPER!

SOUNDS GREAT, PENGY--BUT HOW CAN YOU BE SO COCKEYED SURE BATTY WILL BE THERE?
BECAUSE, THANKS TO HIS CONSUMMATE SKILL IN DECIPHERING MY INORDINATELY BRILLIANT CLUES, HE UNDERSTANDS MY M.O. INSIDE OUT!
AT THE LIBRARY, HE FOUND MY SOURCE BOOK--"BIG SMALL MEN OF HISTORY"--CONTAINING THE DESIGNATED ORDER OF OUR CAPERS!
THIS NEXT ONE IS IN HONOR OF CHARLES PROTEUS STEINMETZ--THE LITTLE GIANT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING--WHO DIED IN 1923!
NOW TRANSPOSING THOSE DIGITS ON THE 24:00 HOUR CLOCK, 1923 BECOMES 7:23 P.M.--THE MOMENT WE STRIKE!
FURTHER, BY ASSOCIATING STEINMETZ WITH AN ADDRESS RICH IN PROMISE FOR A HEFTY HAUL, I FOUND A WHOPPER AT 1923 WATT STREET!
AIN'T WE GONNA USE EXTINCT BIRDS--LIKE WE DID BEFORE?
PFFAH! A SYMBOLIC DEVICE NO LONGER NEEDED--EXCEPT FOR A FINAL AND MOST IMPORTANT FUNCTION--
--TO DELIVER THE COUP DE GRACE TO THE BATMAN IN THE MOST EXCRUCIATING MANNER IMAGINABLE!
AND NOW, SCORPIO--SCULPT AWAY!
THE TIME FAST APPROACHES WHEN MY OWN SUBLIME STATUE JOINS THESE OTHER DIMUNITIVE LUMINARIES IN MAJESTIC ARRAY!
LEON
ALARIC
MACHIAVELLI
4
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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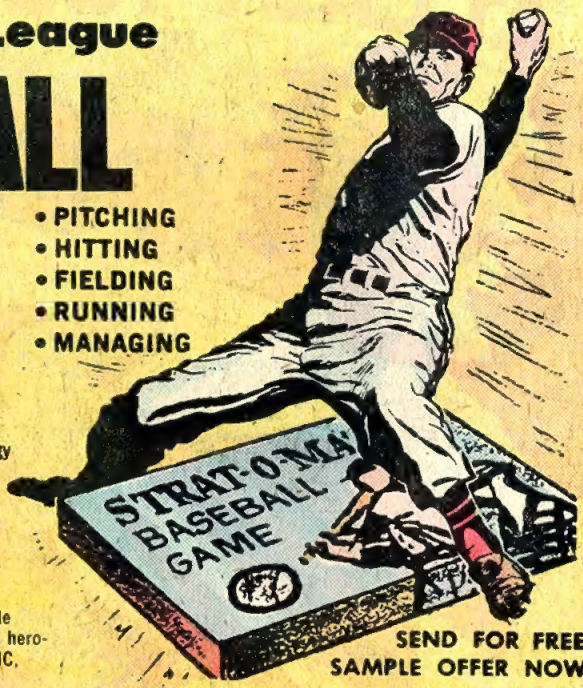

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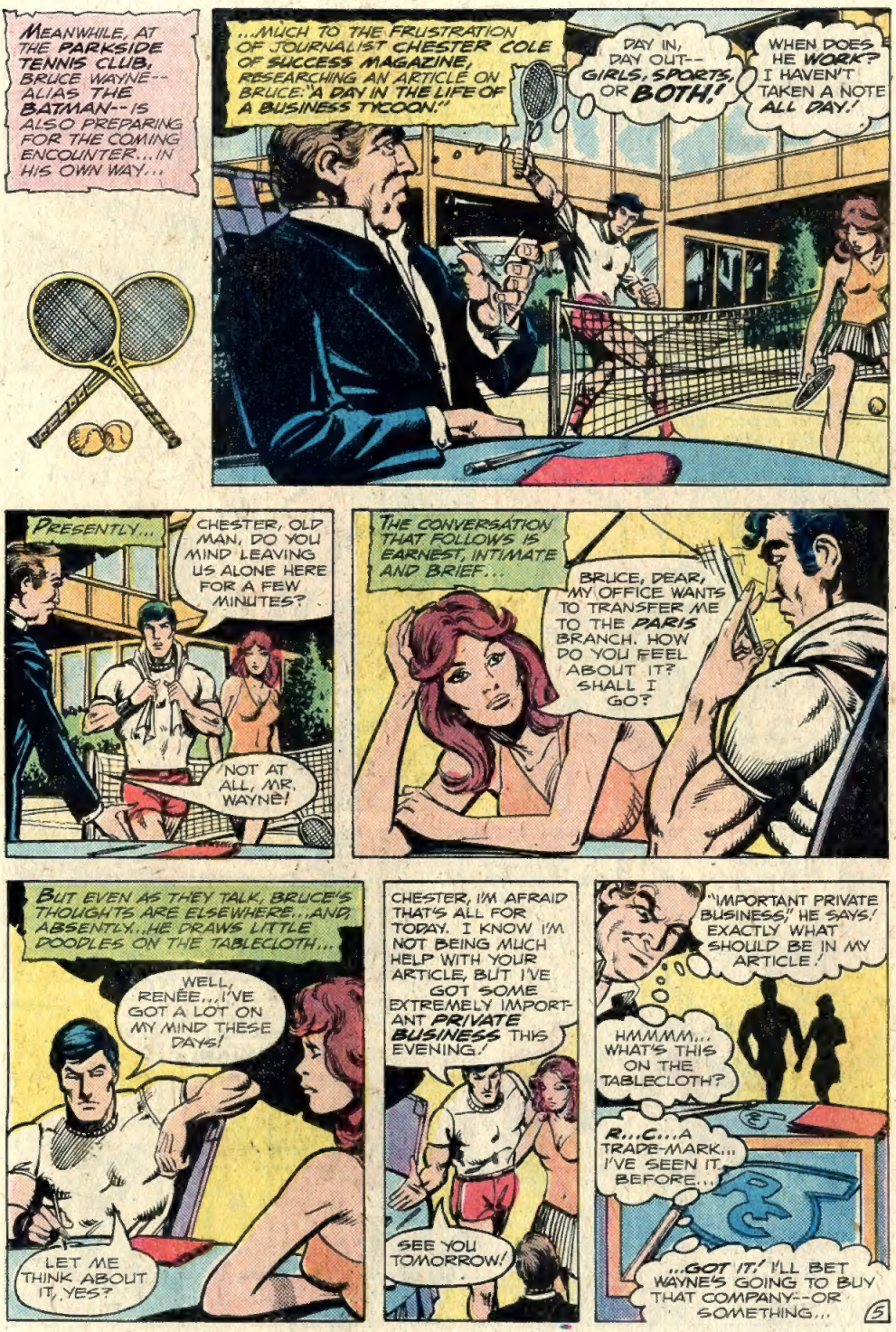
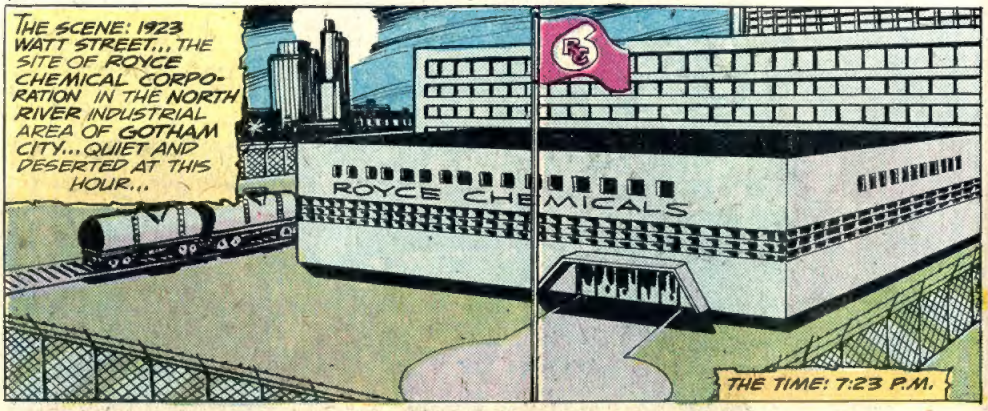
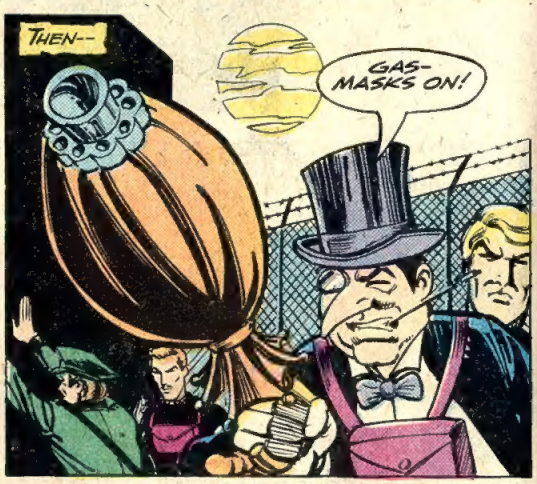
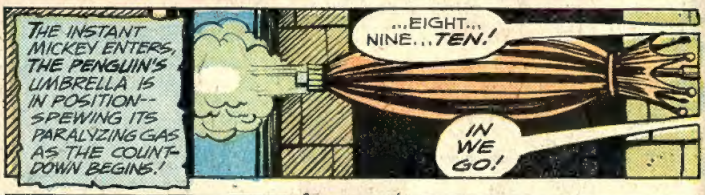

MEANWHILE, AT THE PARKSIDE TENNIS CLUB, BRUCE WAYNE--ALIAS THE BATMAN--IS ALSO PREPARING FOR THE COMING ENCOUNTER...IN HIS OWN WAY...
...MUCH TO THE FRUSTRATION OF JOURNALIST CHESTER COLE OF SUCCESS MAGAZINE, RESEARCHING AN ARTICLE ON BRUCE: "A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BUSINESS TYCOON."
DAY IN, DAY OUT--GIRLS, SPORTS, OR BOTH!
WHEN DOES HE WORK? I HAVEN'T TAKEN A NOTE ALL DAY!
PRESENTLY...
CHESTER, OLD MAN, DO YOU MIND LEAVING US ALONE HERE FOR A FEW MINUTES?
NOT AT ALL, MR. WAYNE!
THE CONVERSATION THAT FOLLOWS IS EARNEST, INTIMATE AND BRIEF...
BRUCE, DEAR, MY OFFICE WANTS TO TRANSFER ME TO THE PARIS BRANCH. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT? SHALL I GO?
BUT EVEN AS THEY TALK, BRUCE'S THOUGHTS ARE ELSEWHERE...AND, ABSENTLY...HE DRAWS LITTLE DOODLES ON THE TABLECLOTH...
WELL, RENÉE...I'VE GOT A LOT ON MY MIND THESE DAYS!
LET ME THINK ABOUT IT, YES?
CHESTER, I'M AFRAID THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY. I KNOW I'M NOT BEING MUCH HELP WITH YOUR ARTICLE, BUT I'VE GOT SOME EXTREMELY IMPORTANT PRIVATE BUSINESS THIS EVENING.
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
"IMPORTANT PRIVATE BUSINESS," HE SAYS! EXACTLY WHAT SHOULD BE IN MY ARTICLE!
HMMMM... WHAT'S THIS ON THE TABLECLOTH?
R...C...A TRADE-MARK... I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE...
...GOT IT! I'LL BET WAYNE'S GOING TO BUY THAT COMPANY--OR SOMETHING...
5

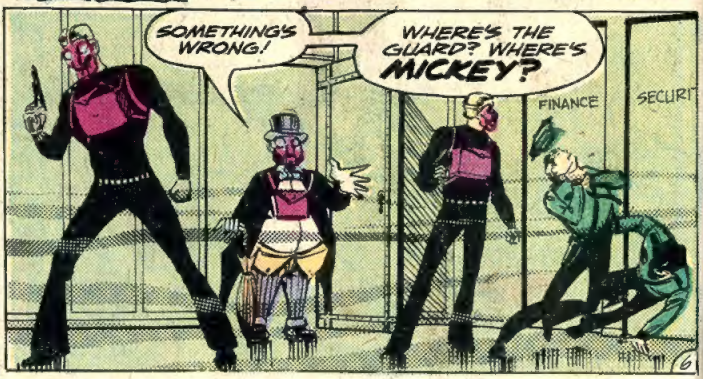

THE SCENE: 1923 WATT STREET... THE SITE OF ROYCE CHEMICAL CORPORATION IN THE NORTH RIVER INDUSTRIAL AREA OF GOTHAM CITY... QUIET AND DESERTED AT THIS HOUR...
ROYCE CHEMICALS
THE TIME: 7:23 P.M.

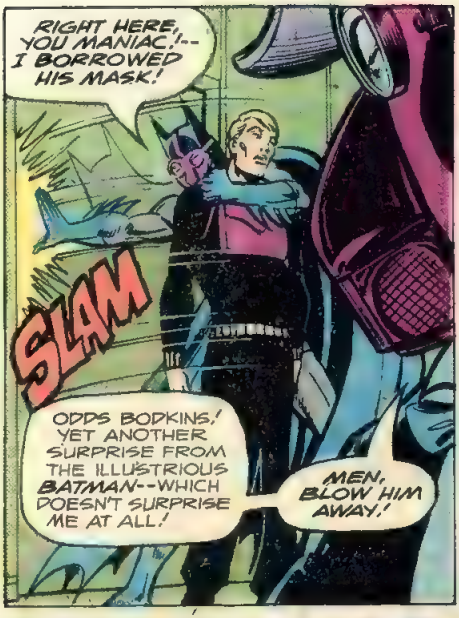
AT THAT EXACT MOMENT--AT A SIDE ENTRANCE...
REACH! ONE SOUND AND YOU'RE DEAD!

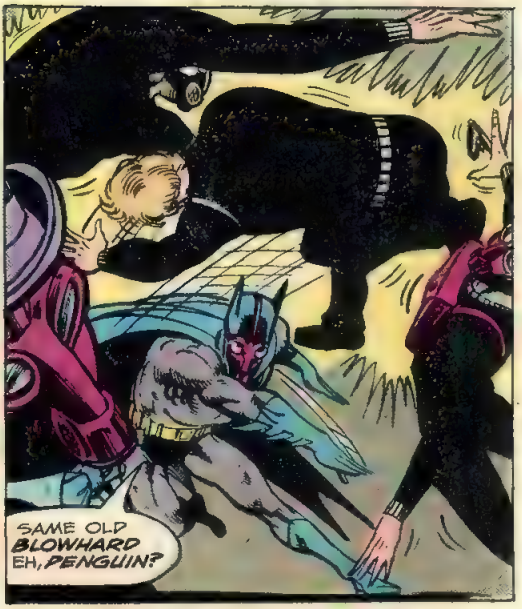

THEN--
GAS-MASKS ON!

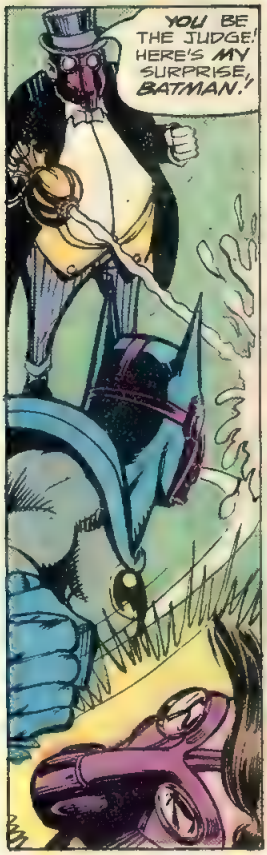
THE DOOR'S UNLOCKED--SO THE ALARM IS OFF!
MICKEY, GO IN AND TAKE THE ONE INSIDE!

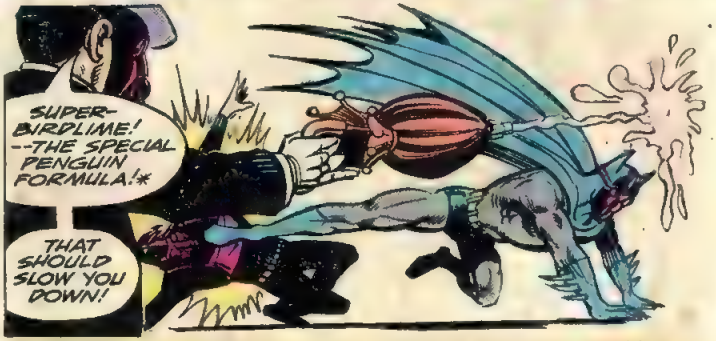

THE INSTANT MICKEY ENTERS, THE PENGUIN'S UMBRELLA IS IN POSITION--SPEWING ITS PARALYZING GAS AS THE COUNT-DOWN BEGINS.
...EIGHT... NINE...TEN!
IN WE GO!


SOMETHING'S WRONG!
WHERE'S THE GUARD? WHERE'S MICKEY?
FINANCE
SECURI

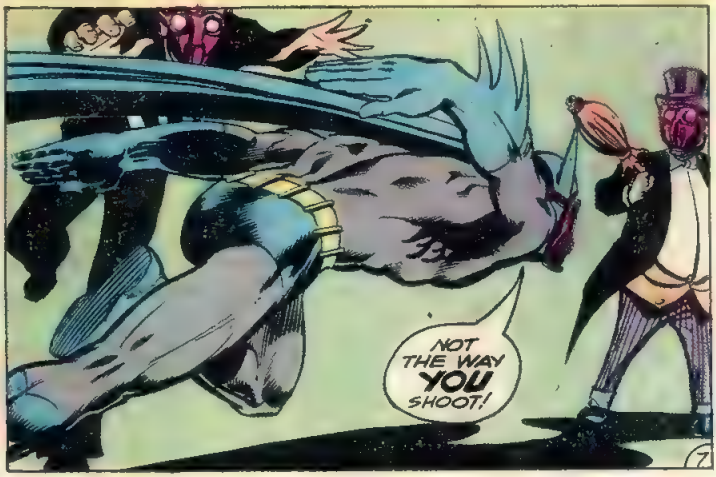

RIGHT HERE, YOU MANIAC!-- I BORROWED HIS MASK!
SLAM
ODDS BODKINS! YET ANOTHER SURPRISE FROM THE ILLUSTRIOUS BATMAN--WHICH DOESN'T SURPRISE ME AT ALL!
MEN, BLOW HIM AWAY!







*BIRDLIME: A POWERFUL, VISCID, BINDING SUBSTANCE MADE FROM HOLLY BARK, USED TO ENSNARE BIRDS!--Julie



A FAST FAREWELL!
AND A GRUESOME GOODBYE!
BUT, UNEXPECTEDLY...
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
CRUNNG
OOOF
SPLAT
AN ACCIDENTAL BURST OF BIRDLIME, AND THE BATMAN IS MOMENTARILY BLINDED--
HOO-HAH!
--BUT THAT MOMENT IS ENOUGH...
ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL! WAKKE WAKKE WAKKE
KRAK
8
CONTINUED ON PAGE FOLLOWING

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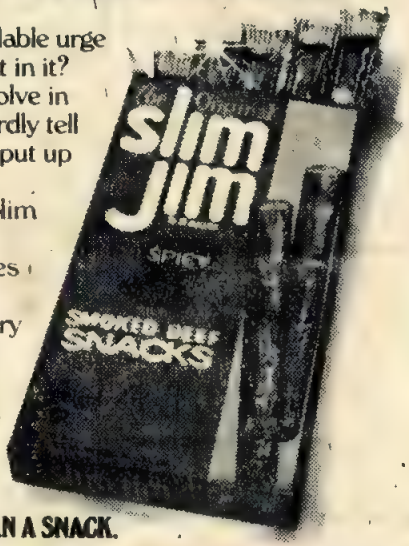

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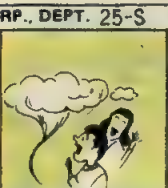

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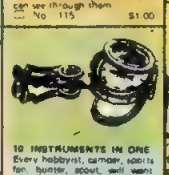

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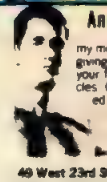

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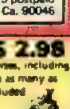

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AN INDETERMINATE TIME HAS PASSED...SLOWLY, CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS TO THE MASKED MANHUNTER...HIS EYES OPEN...
...HE IS IN COMPLETE DARKNESS...LYING ON A STEEL FLOOR...
HE RISES...FINDS HIS MINIBEAM. IT KNIFES THROUGH THE STYGIAN GLOOM...
I'M AT THE BOTTOM OF AN EMPTY CHEMICAL TANK--
--FORTY FEET TO A CLOSED TOP--
--AND CHESTER COLE IS WITH ME!
QUICKLY, THE BATMAN BRINGS COLE TO! SAVE FOR A SCALP WOUND, THE JOURNALIST IS INTACT--AND PANIC-STRICKEN!
THE BATMAN! YES...I SAW YOU THERE! I WAS LOOKING FOR BRUCE WAYNE!
SHH! I HEAR SOMETHING!
WHERE ARE WE?...HOW--?
A THUD--A STEELY ECHO--AND A CYLINDER OF LIGHT DESCENDS AS THE DOME OF THE TANK OPENS!
IF ONLY I STILL HAD MY BAT-ROPE ...BUT THEY EMPTIED MY UTILITY BELT OF EVERYTHING I MIGHT HAVE USED TO ESCAPE!
NOW WHAT'S COMING---?
A BLUR OF MOVEMENT ABOVE--THE LIGHT SUDDENLY SHUT OFF A MOMENT--AND AS SUDDENLY RESTORED--
FRIENDS, WE ARE GATHERED TOGETHER TO HEAR A EULOGY AND A DEDICATION--BOTH OF THEM FOR MYSELF!
9

IT CAME TO ME DURING MY MEDITATIONS THAT--SINCE ALL MEN ARE MORTAL--THE WORLD WOULD ONE DAY INEVITABLY SUFFER THE LOSS OF THE GREATEST LIVING CRIMINAL OF THIS CENTURY--
--NAMELY, MYSELF!
THE PENGUIN! SHORT IN STATURE... BUT AS MONUMENTAL A FIGURE AS THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE RECORDED IN THAT SPLENDIFEROUS TOME--THE BIG SMALL MEN OF HISTORY--
--THE PENGUIN WOULD BECOME AS EXTINCT AS THE FABLED BIRDS OF PRIMORDIAL TIME! HOW TRAGIC!
SURELY A TRIBUTE--A MEMORIAL--WAS IN ORDER!
THUS, I CONCEIVED THE LITTLE MEN'S HALL OF FAME--WHERE THE PENGUIN WILL BE ENSHRINED AMIDST HIS PEERS...HAVING EARNED HIS PLACE WITH A TRANSCENDENT FEAT--
--THE DEATH OF BATMAN!
ERGO, MY SERIES OF CRIMES TO FINANCE THIS MAGNITUDINOUS PROJECT--SYMBOLIZED IN SIMULTANEOUS ATTACKS BY EXTINCT BIRDS!
PENGUIN--THIS MAN--LET HIM GO! HE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU OR ME!
WHY SHOULD HE DIE--?
SLOWLY THE PENGUIN BEGINS TO ASCEND--
OH, HE WON'T DIE--HE'LL OBSERVE!
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NOW, WHILST I ATTEND TO MY NEXT CAPER--AND I'M NOT SO SURE YOU GUESSED THAT ONE--I LEAVE YOU TO YOUR EXECUTIONERS--
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10

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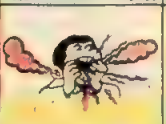

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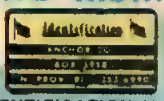

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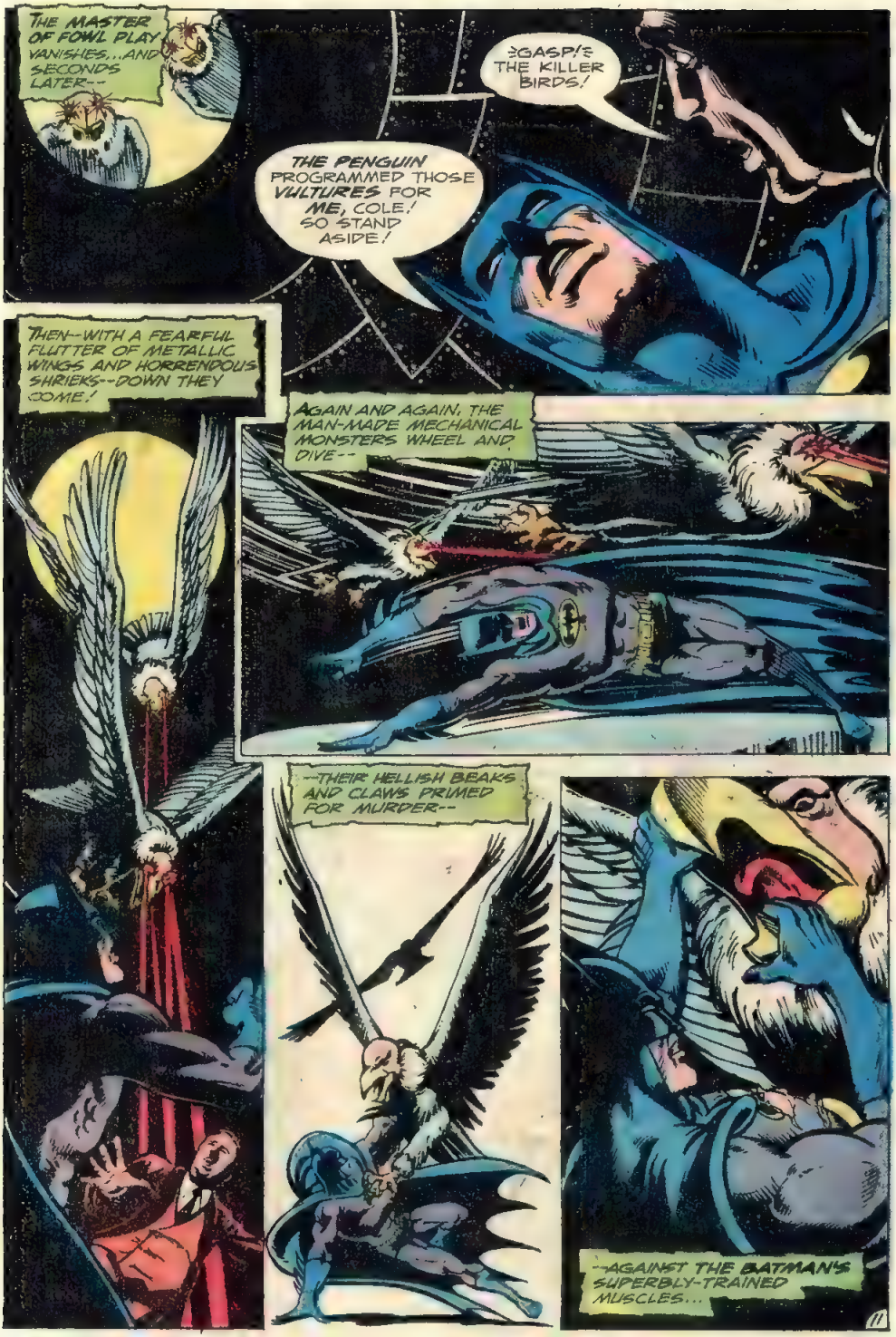
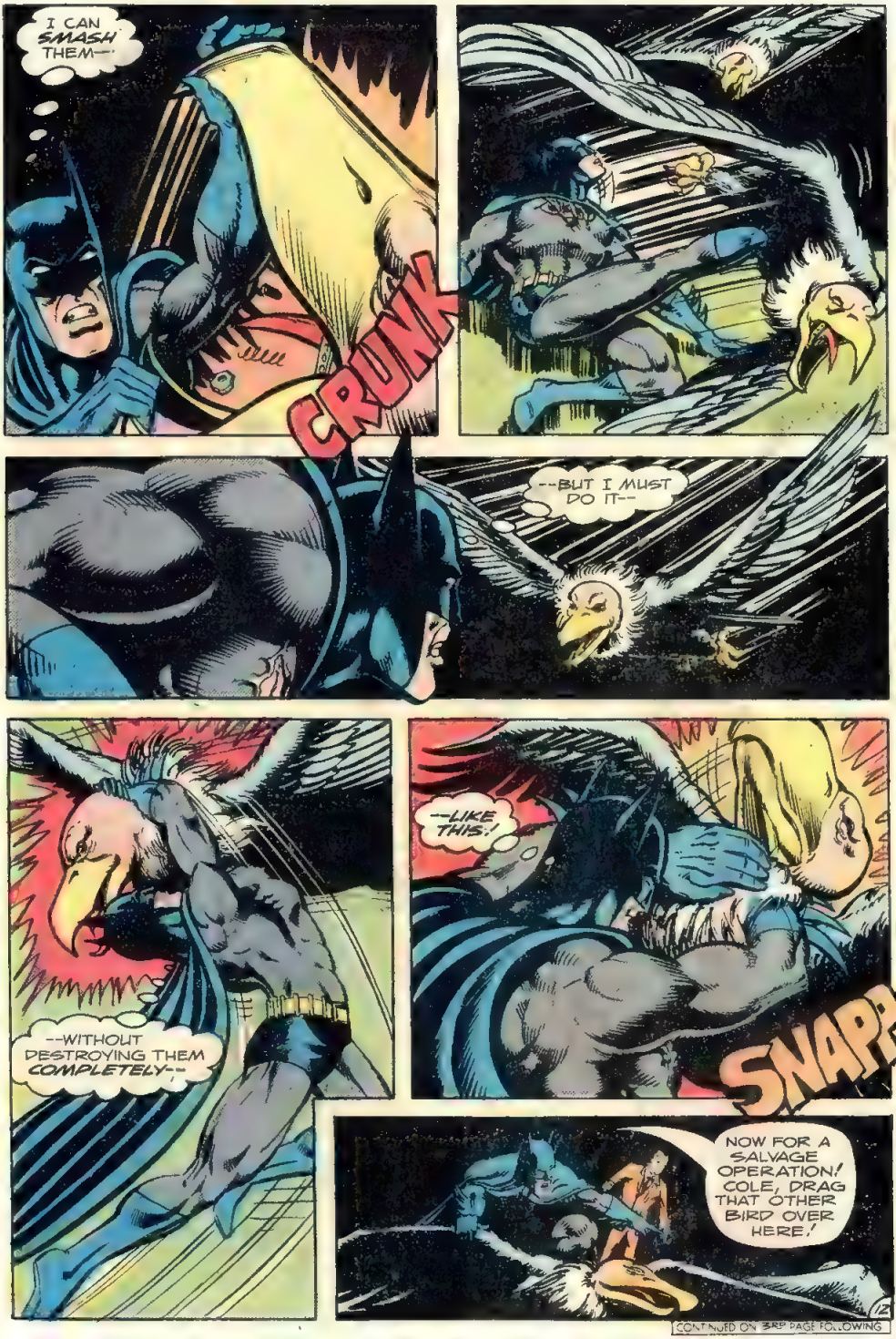

THE MASTER OF FOWL PLAY VANISHES...AND SECONDS LATER--
THE PENGUIN PROGRAMMED THOSE VULTURES FOR ME, COLE! SO STAND ASIDE!
≥GASP!≤ THE KILLER BIRDS!
THEN--WITH A FEARFUL FLUTTER OF METALLIC WINGS AND HORRENDOUS SHRIEKS--DOWN THEY COME!
AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE MAN-MADE MECHANICAL MONSTERS WHEEL AND DIVE--
--THEIR HELLISH BEAKS AND CLAWS PRIMED FOR MURDER--
--AGAINST THE BATMAN'S SUPERBLY-TRAINED MUSCLES...
11


I CAN SMASH THEM--
CRUNK
--BUT I MUST DO IT--
--WITHOUT DESTROYING THEM COMPLETELY--
--LIKE THIS!
SNAPP
NOW FOR A SALVAGE OPERATION! COLE, DRAG THAT OTHER BIRD OVER HERE!
12
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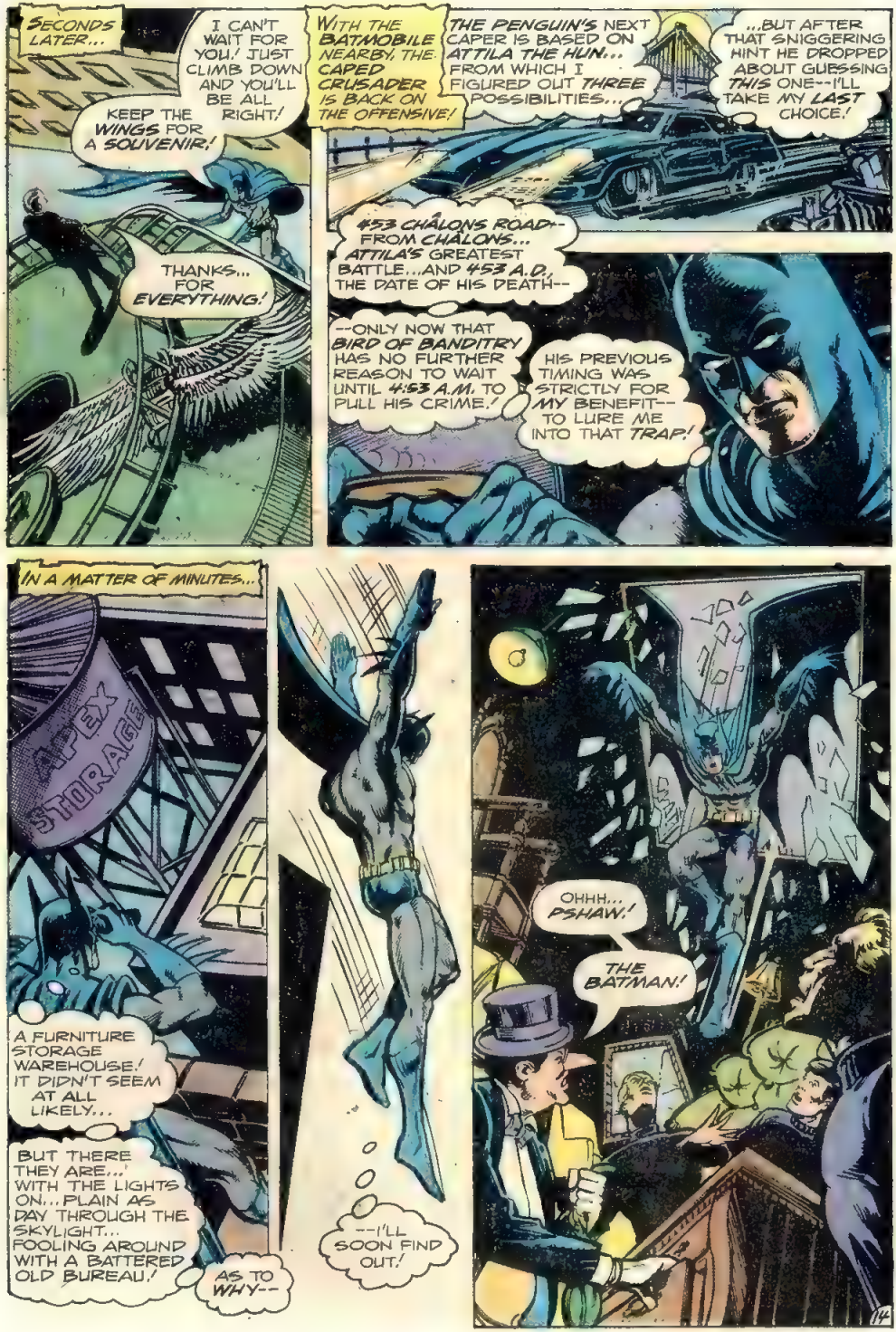
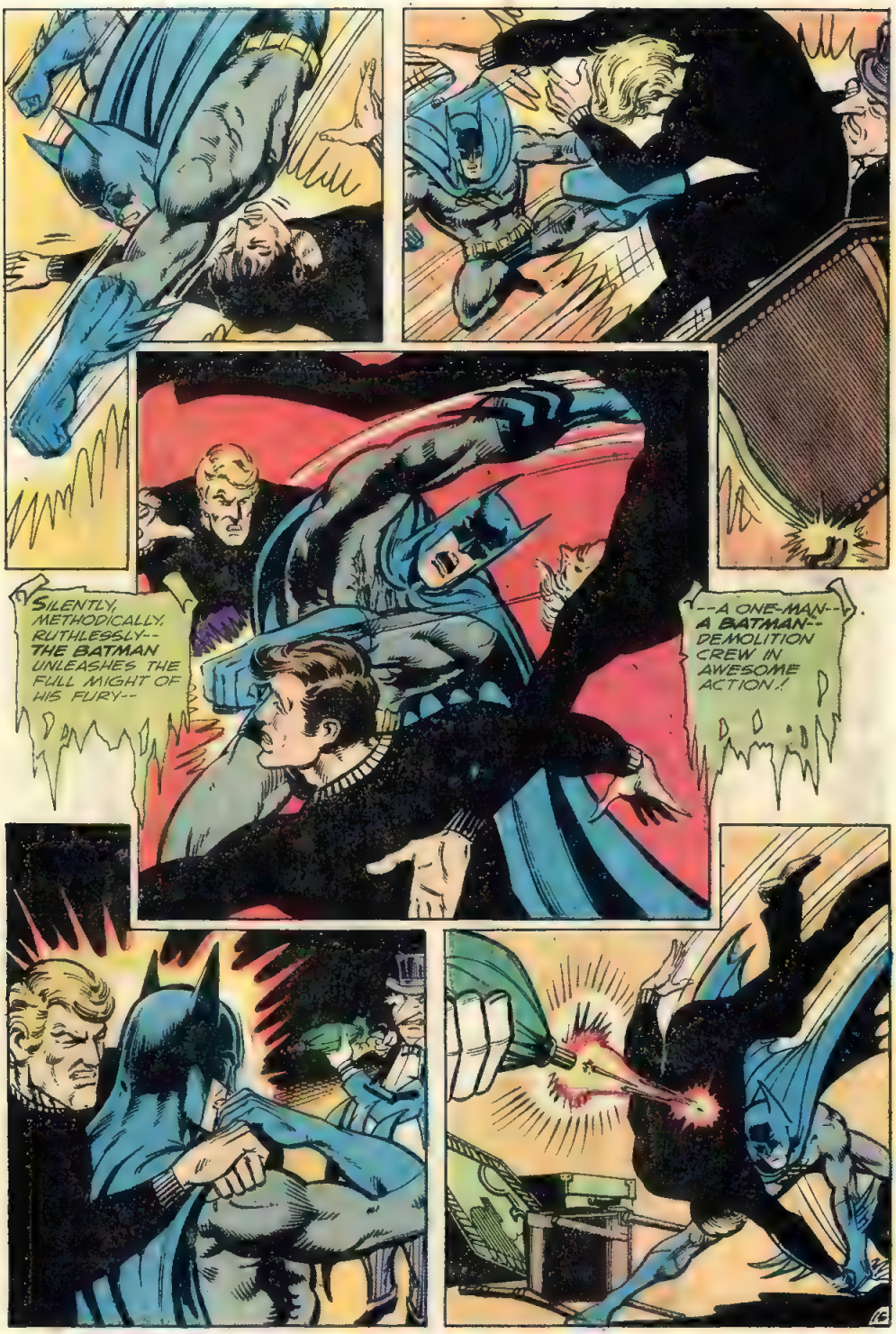
THE WINGS ALL CAME THROUGH UNDAMAGED--
--AND SO DID BOTH MOTORS! THEY HAVE A LOT MORE LIFTING POWER THAN ANY REAL BIRD COULD MUSTER!
THEY'LL SURELY BURN OUT--BUT THERE'S JUST A CHANCE--WITH A SINGLE BURST OF FULL POWER!
FINALLY--SUSPENSEFUL MINUTES LATER...
READY--?
R-R-READY!
A LOW, OMINOUS HUM FILLS THE METAL CHAMBER--RISING ABRUPTLY TO A BRAIN-NUMBING SCREECH--AND...
IT'S WORKING! UP WE GO!


SECONDS LATER...
I CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU! JUST CLIMB DOWN AND YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
KEEP THE WINGS FOR A SOUVENIR!
THANKS... FOR EVERYTHING!
WITH THE BATMOBILE NEARBY, THE CAPED CRUSADER IS BACK ON THE OFFENSIVE!
THE PENGUIN'S NEXT CAPER IS BASED ON ATTILA THE HUN... FROM WHICH I FIGURED OUT THREE POSSIBILITIES...
...BUT AFTER THAT SNIGGERING HINT HE DROPPED ABOUT GUESSING THIS ONE--I'LL TAKE MY LAST CHOICE!
453 CHÂLONS ROAD--FROM CHÂLONS... ATTILA'S GREATEST BATTLE...AND 453 A.D., THE DATE OF HIS DEATH--
--ONLY NOW THAT BIRD OF BANDITRY HAS NO FURTHER REASON TO WAIT UNTIL 4:53 A.M. TO PULL HIS CRIME!
HIS PREVIOUS TIMING WAS STRICTLY FOR MY BENEFIT--TO LURE ME INTO THAT TRAP!
IN A MATTER OF MINUTES...
APEX STORAGE
A FURNITURE STORAGE WAREHOUSE! IT DIDN'T SEEM AT ALL LIKELY...
BUT THERE THEY ARE... WITH THE LIGHTS ON... PLAIN AS DAY THROUGH THE SKYLIGHT... FOOLING AROUND WITH A BATTERED OLD BUREAU!
AS TO WHY--
--I'LL SOON FIND OUT!
OHHH... PSHAW!
THE BATMAN!
12


SILENTLY, METHODICALLY, RUTHLESSLY-- THE BATMAN UNLEASHES THE FULL MIGHT OF HIS FURY--
--A ONE-MAN-- A BATMAN-- DEMOLITION CREW IN AWESOME ACTION!

NOW LET'S SEE WHAT THERE IS ABOUT THIS ANCIENT BUREAU--
--A FALSE-BOTTOMED DRAWER--
--AND DOWN INSIDE--
A MILLION IN BONDS--THE UNRECOVERED PROCEEDS OF THE EXCELSIOR HEIST THREE YEARS AGO!
PENGUIN, YOU MISERABLE, MALIGNANT MICROBE --IN SPITE OF YOURSELF, YOU'RE A HERO--IN REVERSE!
AND THAT'S HOW YOU'LL BE REWARDED!
CONCLUDED ON 7th PAGE FOLLOWING

"I NEVER STOPPED EATING - YET I LOST 18 POUNDS IN 15 DAYS!"

FAT-BURNING SYSTEM - FOR THE BODY

POSITIVE PROOF THIS SYSTEM REALLY WORKS... AND FAST!!

My name is Brad Mitchell. For many years I have helped thousands of people lose weight. And I believe I can help you!

I realize that today, there are so many weight loss products and programs on the market, that you are probably thoroughly confused as to which one is truly effective.

Everyone, both young and old is striving for that slim, sleek, youthful and energetic figure. The problem is how to achieve such a shape without damage to your health and at the same time keep your energy level high in order to cope with the tensions and rapid pace of today's world.

I have developed such a system!

I firmly believe that this Amazing Fat Burning system is the most effective system ever. I should know, just take a look at my before and after pictures. I lost 18 pounds of ugly fat, in only 15 days.

And, believe it or not, I kept my stomach full of food (no hunger pains).

And, my wife lost 40 pounds in only 30 days!

Since then, I have been continuously researching areas of nutrition, bodybuilding, and diet programs, in order to help thousands achieve that slim attractive shape desired by everyone. In fact everyone I put on this Amazing Fat Burning System, reported that they made fantastic weight loses--fast and easily!

FREE WAIST COURSE!!

Order your Fat-Burning System today and we'll send you FREE our fantastic ABDOMINAL COURSE. This big book will show you how to have a trim, muscular waist in the fastest time possible! Get rid of that pot-belly and have a sexy, trim waist. You'll look and feel like a new man!

IS IT THE WORLDS FASTEST, MOST EFFECTIVE FAT BURNING SYSTEM EVER?

I sincerely think it is! Why? Because many of the principles and methods used are the same as those used by top physique champions to eliminate all excess fat.

In fact, many physique champions reduce their body fat to the extreme, so that the skin becomes almost paper thin. Certainly you don't want to become extremely thin. But, it's nice to know that the Fat Burning System can accomplish

almost any weight reduction you desire. And isn't that what you want?

This system is so unique and effective (because it really works)--so much so, that we have had the system copyrighted with the US Government, so that the secrets cannot be copied and stolen!

MAN OR WOMAN--YOUNG OR NOT SO YOUNG--THIS SYSTEM IS FOR YOU!

Everyone can use this system, regardless whether you're young or not so young. It doesn't matter whether you're 10 or 100 pounds overweight, or how many times you have tried to get into shape. With this new system you'll lose weight faster than ever before. In fact you'll have more energy, strength and endurance so that you will feel younger and enjoy a fuller more active life.

I HAVE A SUPER EXERCISE FOR YOU! MORE EFFECTIVE THAN JOGGING!

To help you loose that fat even faster, I've developed a program for a Fun exercise that is more effective than jogging (in the same amount of time), yet it can be done in the privacy of your own bedroom. It takes only several minutes, three times a week to perform this unique exercise! This exercise is done by top athletes and even astronauts. You won't believe how fast your energy level will rise (and how fast you'll get back into shape).

THIS AMAZING SYSTEM REQUIRES ONLY A MINIMAL AMOUNT OF YOUR TIME!

This system requires a small amount of your time (and some effort), but the results will be nothing short of miraculous! Our program offers you plenty of food to eat, plus supplements that will also help burn off the excess fat.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BE TRIM AND SLIM...AND WITHIN DAYS BEGIN TO SEE A REAL DIFFERENCE

IN YOUR APPEARANCE--THEN THIS SYSTEM IS FOR YOU!

Remember, it doesn't matter how many times you have tried to lose weight, your time has finally come, with the Amazing Fat Burning System!

A healthy slim, trim and energetic figure is our goal--make it yours!

SEE DRAMATIC RESULTS IN JUST DAYS...OR RETURN EVERYTHING FOR A FULL REFUND!

You have nothing to lose except fat. Try the Amazing Fat Burning System for a couple of weeks--if you don't feel that the results are fantastic in every way, you can return the system to us, and you'll get a full refund. Just like that! No questions asked.

Give it a try today.

Brad Mitchell
27313 Plymouth Rd., Dept. SUP-1
Detroit, Michigan 48239

Okay, Brad, I accept your offer! But I've got to feel that the Amazing Fat Burning System is the greatest and that the results will be nothing short of miraculous. Otherwise I'll send everything back for a full refund! I enclose $9.95. (cash, check or money order)

Please charge: Bank Americard ☐ Master Charge ☐

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Expiration Date _____ Interbank No. _____

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

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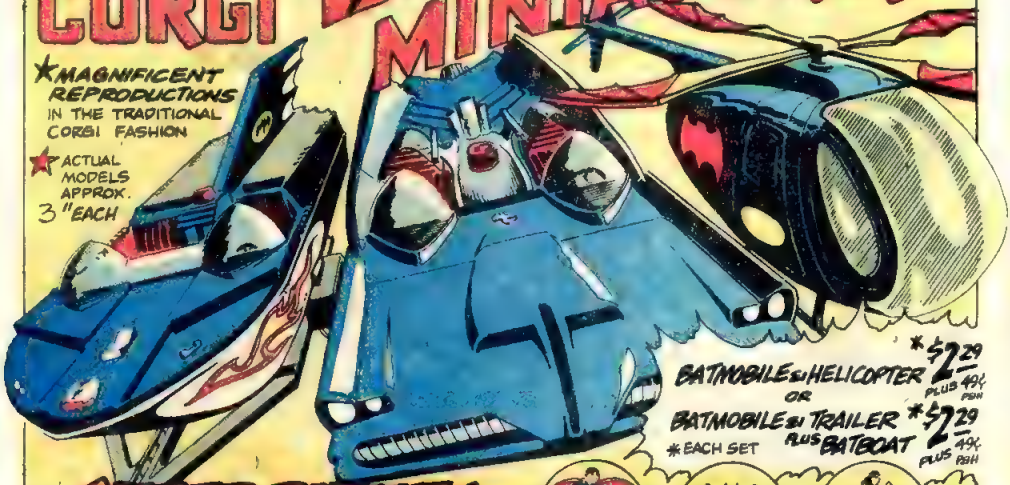

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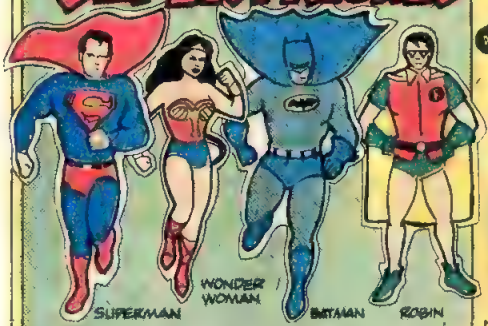

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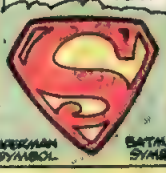

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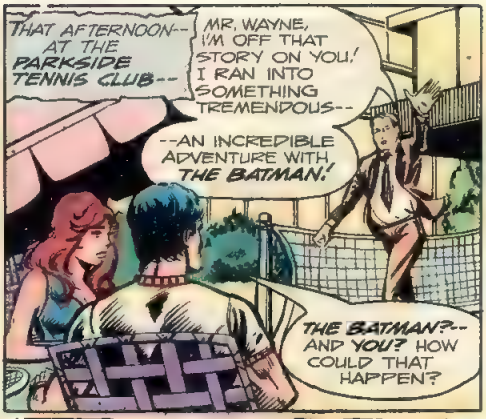
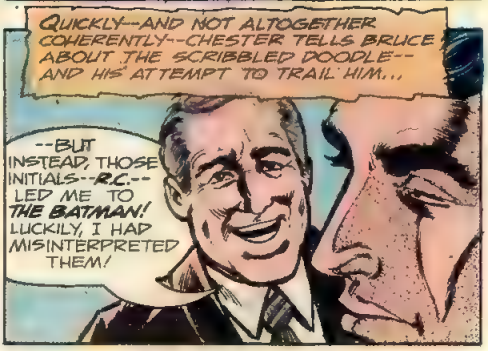
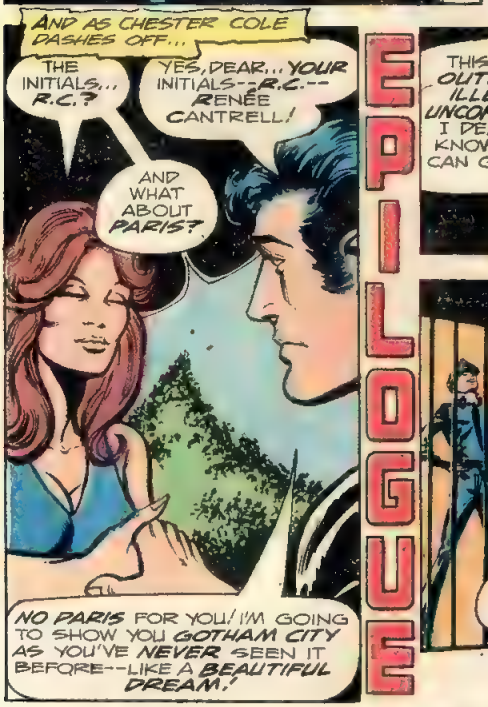
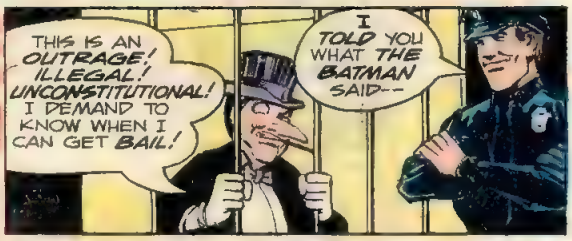
NOON, THE NEXT DAY...AT THE PENTHOUSE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE...
AN ASTOUNDING PERFORMANCE, SIR! IF I MAY SAY SO, THIS BIRD NEWS HAS ME ALL... ALL--
GOTHAM GAZE
BATMAN CAPTURES THE PENGUIN!
ENDS TRAIL OF TERROR
EXCELSIOR BONDS RECOVERED
--A-TWITTER, ALFRED?

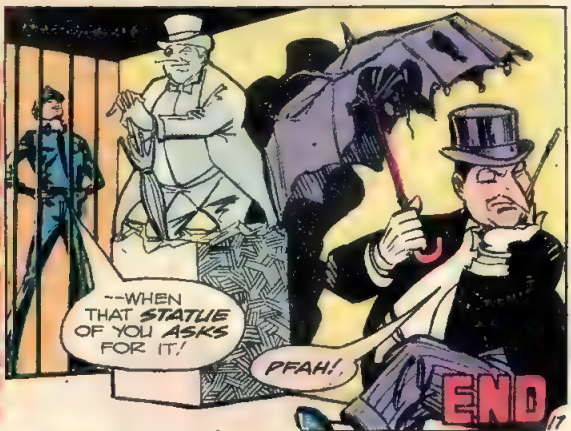

THAT AFTERNOON--AT THE PARKSIDE TENNIS CLUB--
MR. WAYNE, I'M OFF THAT STORY ON YOU! I RAN INTO SOMETHING TREMENDOUS--
--AN INCREDIBLE ADVENTURE WITH THE BATMAN!
THE BATMAN?--AND YOU? HOW COULD THAT HAPPEN?


QUICKLY--AND NOT ALTOGETHER COHERENTLY--CHESTER TELLS BRUCE ABOUT THE SCRIBBLED DOODLE--AND HIS ATTEMPT TO TRAIL HIM...
--BUT INSTEAD, THOSE INITIALS--R.C.--LED ME TO THE BATMAN! LUCKILY, I HAD MISINTERPRETED THEM!


AND AS CHESTER COLE DASHES OFF...
THE INITIALS... R.C.?
YES, DEAR... YOUR INITIALS--R.C.--RENÉE CANTRELL!
AND WHAT ABOUT PARIS?
NO PARIS FOR YOU! I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU GOTHAM CITY AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE--LIKE A BEAUTIFUL DREAM!

EPILOGUE





NEXT ISSUE ON SALE THE SECOND WEEK IN APRIL!

LETTERS to the BATMAN

c/o DC COMICS, INC.
75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Editor:

I greeted the advance publicity marking the return of **Dr. Tzin-Tzin** in **BATMAN #284** with some trepidation. The doctor is certainly one of **Batman's** less-utilized foes and one of those born during the "camp" craze of the '60's, wherein all one needed to qualify as a bad guy was a goofy costume. While **Tzin-Tzin** always had great potential, his past appearances have generally stereotyped him as a typical oriental menace, complete with Fu Manchu mustache and brimming with various fortune-cookie-type sayings.

I was somewhat pleased to note that in "If There Were No Batman, I Would Have To Invent Him", David V. Reed has nicely sidestepped these trappings and transformed the doctor into something of a spectral menace with powers far beyond mortal comprehension. And having been thus endowed, **Tzin-Tzin** could do nothing so mundane as resort to petty crime—that would offend the dignity of his awesome powers. Instead, **Dr. Tzin-Tzin** is content to engage in a battle—or more specifically, a duel—with someone he considers a worthy opponent. This is the perfect way to utilize this villain—in fact, it is the only way he could continue to serve as an antagonist for The **Batman.** Portrayed in any other light, he would quickly become a weak imitation of **The Joker, Catwoman** or the **Riddler**—and lacking those qualities which have made these three survive for over a quarter of a century.

Art? Beautiful! Nothing starts off a comic better than a cover by Jim Aparo. Inside, Romeo Tanghall's pencils are wonderfully imaginative, capturing the mood of the tale very well, yet not allowing it to interfere with the action. Tanghall's figures remind me a great deal of Frank Robbins' work—a compliment indeed.

The only remaining point in need of comment is the introduction of your latest **Batman**-hater, Inspector Maddox. Many police officers have passed through these pages disliking the Caped Crusader for one reason or another, none of them legitimate. All of those characters have been completely lacking in dimension and Maddox gives no evidence to prove he will be otherwise. The hero/cop conflict is fast becoming old hat anyway—I much prefer Commissioner Gordon's breezy relationship with **Batman.**

SCOTT GIBSON
2711 S. Pinehurst
Evergreen, CO 80439

(We're glad you liked the issue, Scott, because our next correspondent didn't—and take a look at who he's complaining about it to!— BR)

Dear Penguin,

I just read in **BATMAN #284** that you are finally making a return. Best wishes! I certainly hope your return will be better than the terrible one that the "diabolical" **Dr. Tzin-Tzin** just made.

Since everyone knows of your superior intelligence, it is taken for granted that you did not make the mistake of reading it. Alas, it seems that David V. Reed is finally running dry. His stories are becoming more and more unrealistic, as well as being totally withdrawn from the night-like, mysterious nature which the Caped Crusader has redeveloped. I'm just sorry to hear that you are now in Dave's hands, **Pengy.** Is nothing sacred?

By the way, if you should see a clown named Chief Inspector P.J. Maddox, do us all a favor and shoot him or something! And if perchance you did read that **Tzin-Tzin** story (we all do make mistakes, you know), don't believe that stealing New Gotham Stadium would ever be more spectacular than anything you've done in the past. First of all, **Tzin-Tzin** would have looked a little conspicuous (and dumb) carrying around a stadium and second, it's not the kind of thing you can fence very easily. I mean, really—what could **Tzin-Tzin** have possibly done with that stadium? Held it for ransom?

Hey, stop laughing so hard, **Pengy,** or you'll choke and then Mr. Reed won't get a chance to redeem himself. Surely he deserves that much.

LARRY BROWN JR.
226 Chapmans Ave.
Warwick, RI 02886

(We just want to know who you intend to write to if you don't like the *Penguin* story!—BR)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

"If There Were No Batman . . ." was just what **Batman** needed: a good change-of-pace story. After seven "normal" crime stories, **#284** provided a sorely needed break by being loaded with elements other than natural.

I had never heard of **Dr. Tzin-Tzin,** but he seems to be a rarity in **Batman's** foes. In fact he has no qualms about expressing his admiration for **Bats.** This is highly irregular because most super-villains attribute **Batman's** crime-fighting abilities to luck rather than skill. The only thing that turned me off about **Tzin-Tzin** was his motive . . . or lack of it. Besides trying to humiliate **Batman** for the profit of his ego, there were no attempts to make any financial profits. That is, unless he was going to auction off Gotham Stadium.

MIKE WHITE
207 West Fast
Mackinaw, IL 61755

(Hey—here's a great idea! Now that we're done figuring out who David V. Reed is, let's all try and figure out what *Dr. Tzin-Tzin* would have done with New Gotham Stadium if he had gotten away with it! Send in your ideas, readers, and we'll print the best and most original ones in an upcoming issue!—Bob Rozakis)

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VOLUME 77 ISSUE 10 | WEEK OF MARCH 7, 1977 | BOB ROZAKIS: EDITOR | ANTHONY TOLLIN: PRODUCTION

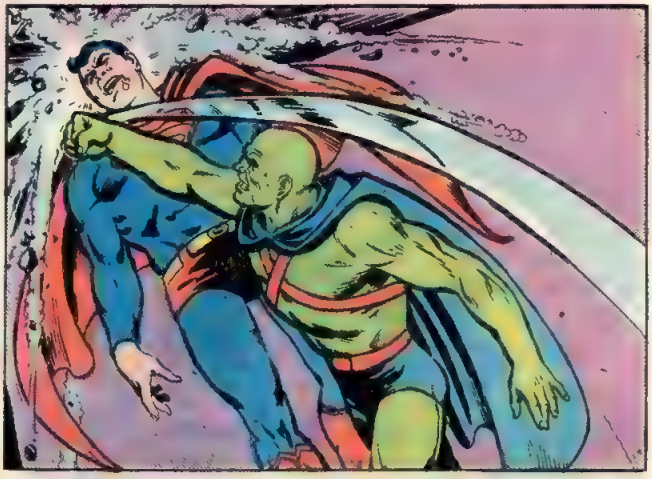
IS SUPERMAN A MURDERER?

J'ONN J'ONZZ ATTACKS THE MAN OF STEEL

(Metropolis) *J'onn J'onzz*, the *Martian Manhunter*, is back on Earth—searching for the man who murdered his best friend. The trail has led from Mars II to Earth and has brought him into conflict with *Supergirl* and *Hawkman*. Now the *Martian Manhunter* is convinced—his real quarry is *Superman!* The battle breaks open in *WORLD'S FINEST #244* in a Bob Haney/Curt Swan/Murphy Anderson thriller.

But that's not all that's in this blockbuster issue! *Green Arrow* finds himself snared as "The Man Bear Stalks at Midnight" and *Black Canary* checks into a "Hospital of Fear", both compliments of Gerry Conway, Mike Nasser and Terry Austin. Bill Kunkel and Gray Morrow join forces as the Vigilante takes on "The Plague Makers" and *Wonder Woman* fights World War II in a Conway/Jim Sherman/Vince Colletta adventure.

So *WF #245* will be a real winner—and well worth the $1 price—when it goes on sale the week of March 14th. Don't get there too late or you'll miss it!



PLANET MINI-PUZZLE #5

Hiddden in the puzzle grid are the names of 16 old and new DC features. Can you find: *FLASH, GI COMBAT, ISIS, KAMANDI, METAL MEN, OMAC, RAGMAN, SHADE, SHADOW, SHAZAM, SUPERSTARS, SWAMP THING, TEEN TITANS, UNEXPECTED, WARLORD,* and *WEIRD (War)?* If not, check out the answers in next week's *PLANET!*

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A E E D A H S O D E
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G N I H T P M A W S

DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF MARCH 14th

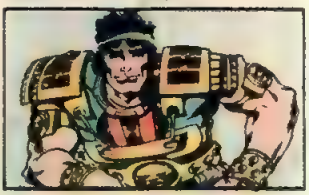
G.I. COMBAT #202—Three *Haunted Tank* sagas headline this battle blockbuster: "Walking Wounded Don't Cry" (by Bob Kanigher and Sam Glanzman); "Heroes on the Hoof" (by Wesley Marsh and Glanzman); and "River of Blood" (Kanigher and Glanzman). Also: an O.S.S. Tale, "This Mission Must Fail" (by Bart Regan and E.R. Cruz); "War—For Men Only" (Regan and Fred Carrillo); "AWOL . . . Until Doomsday" (Regan and Romeo Tanghal); "The GI Who Didn't Want to Be a Hero" (Evan Douglas and George Evans); and lots of special features.

HOUSE OF SECRETS #146—A pair of chillers: "Snake's Alive" by E. Nelson Bridwell, Michael Pellowski and Buddy Gernale; and "Snow Ghost" with art by Bill Draut.

PLASTIC MAN #18—More wild and whacky adventures of comics' original stretcher by John Albano, Ramona Fradon and Bob Smith.

HERCULES DONS NEW GARB

(North America) *Hercules* has discovered new allies and as a result, he's donned a new outfit to combat the menaces of post-World War III Earth. With the aid of the *Atomic Knights* (and help from Cary Bates and Walt Simonson), the man-god sets out on a quest to set the world aright again—and you can have a front row seat by picking up *HERCULES UNBOUND #11*, when it goes on sale the week of March 14th. It's a world we hope we never have to live in, but if we do, we'll be glad Hercules is on our side!



AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW:

BATMAN #288 (The Penguin!)/DC SPECIAL #28 (The Legion, Aquaman, and *Batman* in *EARTH SHATTERING DISASTER STORIES!) /SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN #1/STARFIRE #6/SUPERMAN #312* (guest-starring *The Flash* and *Supergirl*)/*TEEN TITANS #48 (Two-Face!)*

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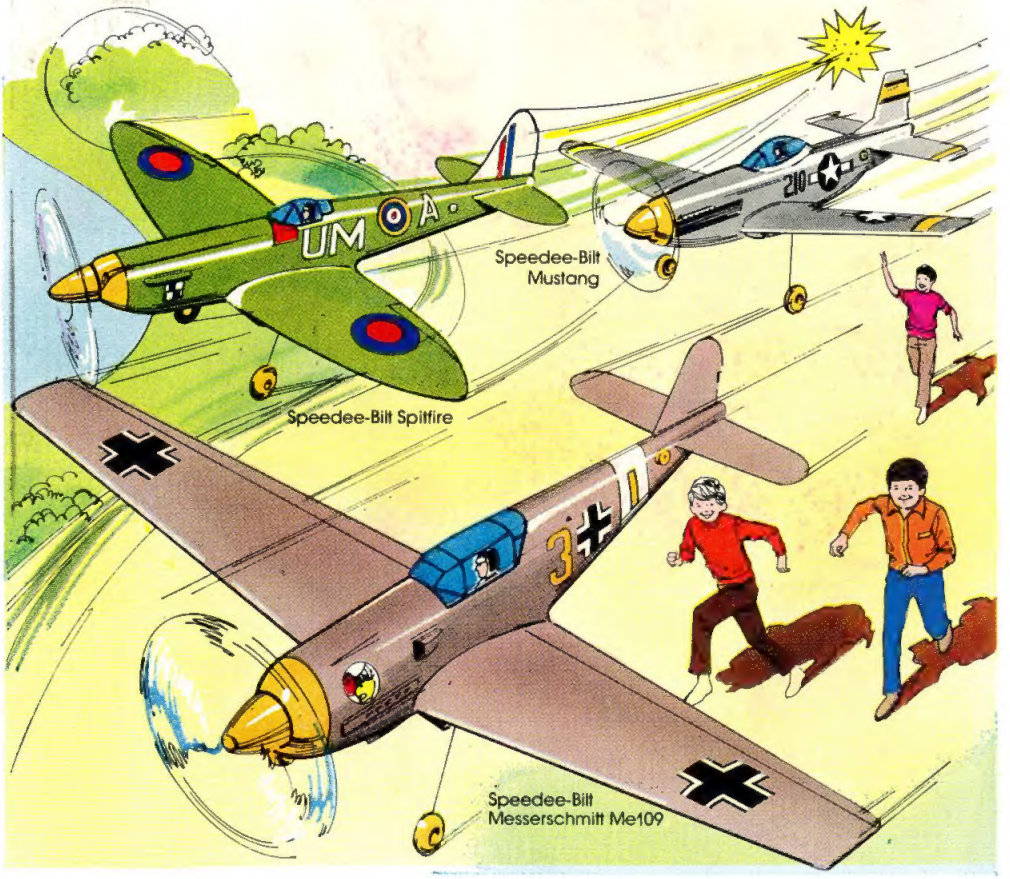

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SLAM DUNK!

WHAT MOVES!

HE PLAYS UP IN THE LIGHTS!

NOW IT'S *MY* TURN, JULIUS!

SWISH!

A 30-FOOTER!!

WHAT A MAGIC TOUCH!

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